



**TOWN OF CONCORD**  
**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Community Preservation Committee makes Funding Recommendations  
for the 2016 Annual Town Meeting**

The Concord Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is pleased to announce its recommendations for Community Preservation Act funding at Concord's 2016 Annual Town Meeting. At its meeting on December 7, the CPC voted to recommend full or partial funding for 14 of 17 applications submitted. Funding requests totaled over \$5M while available funds totaled \$1,480,844. In accordance with the state CPA statute, a minimum of 10% of the available funds has been allocated to projects in each of the three categories of Community Housing, Historic Preservation and Open Space. The remaining funds have been distributed between the above three categories, the Recreation category, and existing reserve accounts for future use. All of the recommended projects must be approved by vote of Town Meeting before any funding can be released.

The CPC evaluated each project in accordance with the criteria established in the Town's Community Preservation Plan at a series of meetings in October and November, and conducted a group site visit to each of the represented properties on October 17. The Committee presented the applications for public comment at a public hearing on November 23 and spent the last two meetings completing a final review of all the proposals. With these assessments in mind, the CPC completed its review and approved the following funding recommendations:

**COMMUNITY HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Regional Housing Services Program, Town of Concord: \$17,500 to fund the Town's membership in the Regional Housing Services Office, an inter-municipal organization that provides professional housing staff for the administration of Concord's affordable housing programs and six neighboring communities.

Affordable Housing Buy Down Program, Concord Housing Development Corporation - \$120,000 to establish an account that can be used as needed to preserve existing affordable housing units and/or create new affordable housing units. These opportunities often come up with little warning and this fund will allow the Town to act quickly when needed.

Community Housing Reserve Fund - \$82,500 to be placed in an existing reserve for future Community Housing projects and/or land acquisitions.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS;

Emerson Umbrella Window Restoration, Umbrella Community Arts Center - \$138,250 to restore 100 original wood windows located on the front and side facades of the original ca. 1929 former high school. This work will restore original building fabric and improve the building's energy efficiency by adding new wall insulation and double paned glass in the restored windows. This is part one of a phased project.

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Roadway and Stone Wall Improvements, Concord Public Works - \$225,000 to complete much needed repairs and improvements on the roadways, paths and stone retaining walls found throughout the national register listed historic ca. 1855 cemetery. The project will preserve the historic landscape by correcting erosion damage, upgrading stormwater management systems, and repairing/replacing failing roads and pathways. This is part one of a phased project.

Wheeler Harrington House Preservation, Town of Concord - \$40,000 to complete repairs and improvements on Concord's only Town owned historic residence and one of the oldest structures in West Concord, the ca. 1745 Wheeler Harrington farmhouse. This project will further preserve this unique Town resource by replacing its roofs, repairing damaged masonry and roof framing, and replacing inadequate rainwater drainage systems.

New Church Main Entrance Steps Restoration, New Church in West Concord - \$12,000 to restore the original front steps of the ca. 1903 Queen Anne style church, former Our Lady's, located at the heart of West Concord in the Church Street Local Historic District. The proposed work will repair and replace broken stair treads and restore the original brickwork surrounding the staircase. As part of this funding the church will provide some use benefit to the town.

## OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Old Calf Pasture Habitat Restoration, Town of Concord Division of Natural Resources - \$36,000 to continue work to restore the native habitat in the Old Calf Pasture Town Conservation area. This project is a continuation of the successful 2013 CPA funded project to remove invasive Buckthorn and preserve the regions' largest population of Briton's Violets.

Gowings Swamp Access and Improvements, Concord Children's Center and Sudbury Valley Trust - \$14,100 to complete a three year plan to remove invasive plants from the Gowings Swamp area and better preserve this unique wetlands ecosystem. The work will also include improving publically used pathways surrounding Gowings Swamp and the Natural Playscape at Ripley.

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2C, Town of Concord - \$125,000 to complete the 100% design plan for the Rail Trail's course through Concord. This funding will be used to complete the designs for the section of trail beginning at Commonwealth Avenue and ending at the Sudbury Town line. The Town continues to work in cooperation with the Mass. Dept. of Transportation to complete this project.

White Pond Restoration Project, Town of Concord Division of Natural Resources - \$166,000 to implement recommendations made in the recently completed White Pond Watershed Maintenance Plan. The proposed work will complete the design, planning, and installation of new erosion controls on the Town land surrounding Sachem's Cove and at the State owned

public boat launch. A sampling program also will be conducted to identify additional sources of pollution.

#### RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

SS Concord Bell Memorial, Rotary Club of Concord - \$50,000 to replace the existing seating area adjacent to the Veteran's Memorial in Monument Square with a new memorial space and seating area dedicated to the USS Concord Bell. The last *USS Concord* served from the 1920s through WWII and has the distinction of having fired the last salvo of WWII. The bell was presented to the Town after the ship was decommissioned in the 1940s. This plan includes removal of the current deteriorating billboard and leaning/broken streetlight.

Drinking Water Fountains for Concord Playing Fields, Concord on Tap and Town of Concord - \$24,494 to install six new drinking water fountains at local playing fields that currently lack such facilities. The new fountains will have water bottle filling capacity and are proposed to be installed at fields adjacent to the Alcott, Ripley, Sanborn, Thoreau, and Willard schools and at the South Meadow Playing Field.

Fields Renovation Project at Concord Carlisle High School - Phase III, Concord Carlisle at Play, Inc. - \$150,000 for the construction of a new natural grass, multi-purpose field in the area adjacent to the Doug White playing fields. This is the last phase of a three-phase project to renovate and restore the High School playing fields.

#### OPEN CATEGORY RECOMMENDATION:

Land Acquisition Project Fund, Town of Concord: \$250,000 to be placed in an existing reserve account for future land purchases which support the Town's efforts to create additional community housing, protect open spaces, preserve historic resources and/or establish new recreation facilities.

These recommendations will be presented by the CPC in a warrant article for approval at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting. The Committee will also be presenting the projects for further review and discussion to the Finance Committee at their public hearings on February 3. Copies of the project applications and further information on the CPC and its funding process can be found at [www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA\\_CPC/index](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_CPC/index) or by contacting Senior Planner Lara Kritzer at 978-318-3293.

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